

claims have been cancelled with this preliminary amendment. This record is to make it clear that in the future should any of those other non-elected inventions and species be filed as a divisional application, their continuity and life continues through this application.

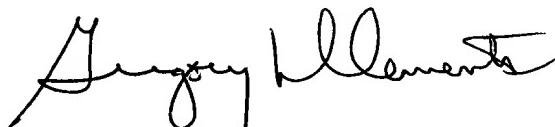
Claims 1 – 23 were cancelled in favor of claims 24 – 32 which are directed to an invention made more clear by the new claims.

A petition for an two-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a Request for Continued Examination and the appropriate fees are attached.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version With Markings to Show Changes Made"**.

An Office Action on the merits of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory N. Clements
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 30,713
DOUGHERTY, CLEMENTS, & HOFER
1901 Roxborough Road, Suite 300
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211
Telephone: (704) 366-6642
Facsimile: (704) 366-9744

GNC/mh

f:\wpnet\KoSa\Patent\2000-12\AmdOA 3-19-03.doc

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 1 – 23 have been cancelled.

Claims 24 – 32 have been added.

24. A single dip composition consisting of: from about 2 to about 12 weight % epoxy activated with an alkali, and resorcinol formaldehyde latex, based on a dry weight basis.

25. The composition of claim 24, wherein said resorcinol formaldehyde latex has a formaldehyde to resorcinol mole ratio of from about 1.2 to 2.

26. The composition of claim 25, wherein said resorcinol formaldehyde latex has a latex to resorcinol formaldehyde ratio, based on a dry weight, is about 4.25 to 4.75.

27. The composition of claim 24, wherein said epoxy is a sorbitol epoxy.

28. The composition of claim 24, wherein said epoxy is in a range of about 3 to 8 weight % on a dry weight basis.

29. The composition of claim 24, wherein said epoxy is in a range of about 4 to 5 weight % on a dry weight basis.

30. The composition of claim 24, wherein said alkali is sodium hydroxide.

31. The single dip composition, consisting of: from about 2 to 12 weight % epoxy resin, sufficient alkali additive to buffer the composition, and resorcinol formaldehyde latex based on a dry weight basis.

32. The composition of claim 31, wherein said alkali additive is sodium hydroxide.